

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From some Editorial Notes:

The Legislature.—At the time of writing it is impossible to say just what has been proposed in the way of medical legislation, though some things are quite apparent. The usual attempt is to be made to secure special boards of examiners in almost every sort of freak cult. A number of bills have been drawn which may or may not be introduced; one of them provides an entirely new medical law on an entirely new plan, but no copy of the bill has as yet come to our attention. Another proposed law provides for separate boards of examiners for regulars, homeopaths, eclectics, osteopaths, naturopaths, and divine healers!

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Medical Building.—Have you thought anything about that suggestion in the last *Journal* as to the county society owning its own building? It can be done by a good many—if not most—of the county societies in California. You all pay rent to somebody; why not pay it to the county society? It is merely a matter of finance and of getting together, and the getting together, in some places, seems to be the hardest part of the problem.

From an article on "Some Factors in Habitual Constipation," by Raymond Russ, M.D., San Francisco.—The center of surgical discussion shifts from time to time. The brain, the neck, the thorax, occupy in turn the circle of the spotlight, which may be switched at any moment to some other portion of the stage of endeavor. Surgery, constantly trying to increase its scope, has fads and fancies. The opening of a new field is always followed by a stage of over-enthusiasm, and sometimes reckless and ill-considered operating. Concomitant causes are lost sight of in the presence of what is thought to be a newly evolved principle, so desirous are we of reducing our asset of painful experience to the proportions of absolute, scientific fact.

From an article on "Feeding in Later Infancy," by H. H. Yerington, M.D., San Francisco.—During the past six or eight years, probably no subject in medicine has received more attention than infant feeding, and with numerous schools advocating so many various methods, the family physician, if he tries to keep up with the literature, finds himself in a hopeless tangle.

From an article on "Dietetics from a Modern Standpoint," by Annie W. Williams, M.D., Hayward.—In this age of searching analysis, keen observation, thorough research, extensive and exhaustive laboratory experiments, practical demonstrations and laborious investigations, dietetics, the science or study and regulation of the diet has not been overlooked, but has received its full and much-needed share of attention. World-wide questioning is being directed to the disquieting fact that eating just for self-gratification, the good taste and flavor because you happen to like it, and to satisfy a pampered, over-cultivated and oft-times, more or less, perverted appetite, is possibly not all it should be.

From an article on "The Technique of the Removal of Foreign Bodies and New Growths from the Esophagus," by W. P. Millspaugh, M.D., Los Angeles.—This subject is a little bulky for a ten-minute paper, and I shall begin immediately to use the pruning shears. That portion of it referring to new growths is an unknown field to me, and I

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†This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

"The State District Court of Appeal issued a writ of mandate today requiring Superior Judge J. J. Van Nostrand of San Francisco to prepare and file a finding of facts in a case involving the rights of chiropractors. Chiropractors are seeking a comprehensive court interpretation of the law pertaining to their profession. M. James McGranaghan, a chiropractor and lawyer, in April, 1935, filed application for a declaratory judgment to determine what rights he could exercise under his license as a chiropractor. The California Drugless Physicians' Association and a number of Los Angeles chiropractors intervened in the action. In September, 1935, Judge Van Nostrand issued a memorandum opinion, but stated he did not regard a finding of facts as necessary. Application for the writ of mandate was made to the State District Court by Attorney-General U. S. Webb." (Fresno Bee and Republican, December 11, 1937.)

"Local doctors were warned yesterday to lock their cars and to refrain from leaving medical kits in them while making calls or visiting hospitals, due to a new outbreak of thefts in Marin County. According to word received here yesterday from Police Chief Sabin D. Kane of San Rafael, kits containing drugs and equipment worth more than \$300 have been stolen from physicians' cars in that city during the past few days. Included in the equipment stolen were a complete blood-pressure machine, two sets of syringes in a leather case, ear and throat probing instruments, a quantity of morphine, and two sets of hypodermic needles." (Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, December 24, 1937.)

"Medical kits of five Bakersfield doctors have been stolen from their automobiles during the past several days, according to city police. All but one have been recovered. . . . Officers believe the thefts to be the work of a dope addict." (Bakersfield Californian, December 30, 1937.)

"A prominent Pasadena eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, Dr. H. M. Griffith, whose trial in Los Angeles County courts in 1933 over the shooting of a banker friend who allegedly defrauded him of over \$50,000 was interrupted when he was declared mentally incompetent, appeared before the Mendocino County Superior Court Friday. On a writ of habeas corpus, the doctor asked for release from the Mendocino State Hospital, where he has been confined since that time, so that he might return to Los Angeles County to defend himself in the resumption of the criminal case against him. . . . Two deputy district attorneys from Los Angeles County, Hugh McIsaac and D. J. O'Leary, were on hand to present their case, urging that the man had not recovered sufficiently from his insanity to offer aid to his counsel in his defense. . . . Doctor Griffith, a graduate of George Washington Medical School in St. Louis, and a normal-appearing gentleman, somewhat gray and wearing horn-rimmed spectacles, testified for himself concerning the shooting of a Mr. Hubbard, vice-president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Pasadena, with whom he had entrusted his funds. In two civil trials he had gained no satisfaction for the fraudulent manipulations of his money by Hubbard, which included a check for \$52,500 from the city of Pasadena for property condemned for Civic Center purposes. He testified that he felt there had been tampering with the jury in the first trial, while the second had been decided on a technicality. These beliefs, with others, were listed by Deputy District Attorney McIsaac of Los Angeles as 'delusions' and adequate proof of Griffith's unsound mental condition. . . ." (Ukiah Redwood Journal, December 11, 1937.)

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†The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.